

Public Engagement Report



Coronado National Forest
April 2022



Phase 1 sensing report for the
Santa Catalina Trail Plan

A Thank You to our Partners

Thank you to our partners and community organizers who were instrumental assisting the Coronado National Forest through the sensing phase of the Santa Catalina Trail Plan development.

Prepared by the Coronado National Forest:
Santa Catalina Ranger District and the Supervisor's Office
Photographs by Amber Wong & Adam Milnor



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

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Introduction

The Santa Catalina Mountains soar over Tucson, Arizona, a city of 1 million. Mount Lemmon's peak reaches 9,171 feet above sea level, making the mountains a popular recreation destination in all seasons. The Santa Catalina Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest manages all 265,000 acres of this rugged mountain range which includes steep slopes, deep canyons, incredible biodiversity, a range of ecosystems, and 247 miles of trail. These trails are predominantly open to non-motorized users such as hikers, mountain bikers, trail runners, climbers, and equestrians. Forest Service visitor data indicates that trail use is the dominant recreation activity on the Coronado National Forest. However, a comprehensive trail planning effort for most of the districts have never been completed.

Changes in recreation preferences and technology have shifted trail use patterns. Mountain biking has grown in popularity and better equipment challenges riders on trails not normally heavily used for biking. Trail running has also grown in popularity. Demand for access to rock climbing areas has caused the creation of some unauthorized non-system trails. Similarly, the steepness and difficulty of many of the trail systems provides limited routes for less experienced users or those with limited levels of mobility.

The resulting high use of District trails, especially on Mount Lemmon and along the Catalina Highway, has led to trail degradation, user conflicts and the creation of unauthorized, non-system trails. In many locations, existing trailheads and trail access points are insufficient for current and expected use levels. Lastly, the Bighorn Fire of 2020 impacted more than half of the district's trail system, altering available recreation settings and trail conditions.

The Santa Catalina and Rincon Mountains need a system of trails for all users that will be ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable. This can only be done through open collaboration and shared investment with partners and local recreation organizations. An interactive Story Map was launched in November 2021 to collect comments from the people that know these mountains best: the community. See the next page for a rundown on the engagement numbers following the comment collection period.



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ENGAGEMENT NUMBERS



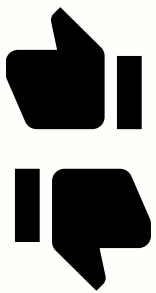
**SANTA
CATALINA
TRAIL
PLAN**



**DAYS OPEN FOR
COMMENT**

COMMENTS

861



2,377

**# OF AGREE &
DISAGREE REACTIONS**

**ORGANIZATIONS
ENGAGED**

73

**TOP
THEMES**



**MORE
TRAILS**



**ADOPT
TRAILS**



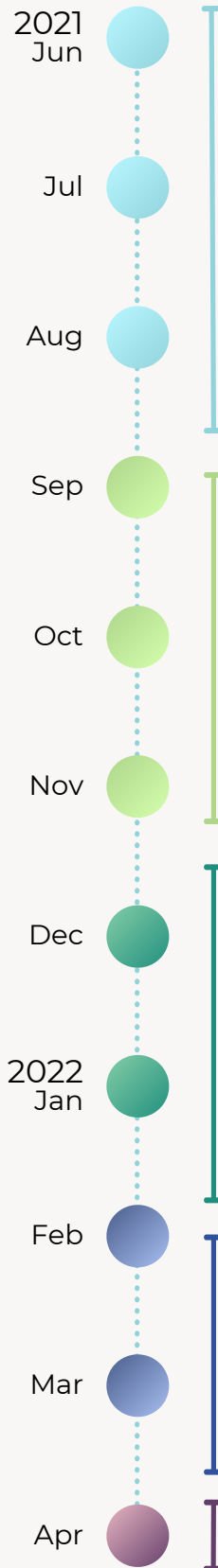
**BIKE ONLY
TRAILS**

Timeline

From June 2021 to April 2022, nearly a year of public sensing has gone into the development phase of the Santa Catalina Trail Plan. The summer of 2021 began with informal discussions involving several community groups that are deeply woven into the fabric of the Catalina and Rincon Mountains.

With the valuable input from recreation partners, conservation groups, and partner agencies, the interactive Story Map was launched in November 2021.

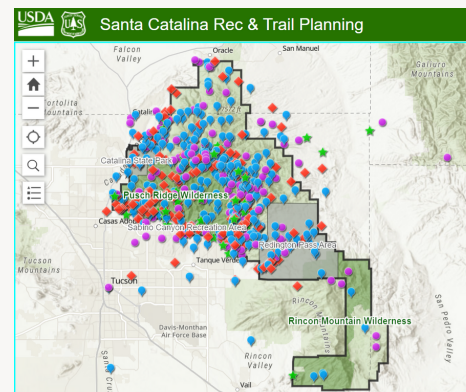
For 70 days, all members of the public could comment and suggest their ideas for the development of the trail plan. Comments were then coded and categorized, and published in this report.



Conversations with trail, community, and conservation partners:

- Mountain Biking (TORCA)
- Rock Climbing (CASA)
- Hiking/wilderness (S. AZ Hiking Club, Santa Catalina Volunteer Naturalists, AZ Trail Association, Wild AZ, The Wilderness Society)
- Conservation (Sky Island Alliance, Tucson Audubon, The Nature Conservancy)

Construction of interactive Story Map to collect public comments.



Interactive Story Map released to public, news releases and letters to partners and interest groups sent. Access Story Map webpage: tinyurl.com/CatalinaTrails

Organize and document sensing comments & input. Summarize key issues.



Public Engagement Report



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Comment Analysis

Following the collection period, Coronado National Forest staff identified the key themes seen across nearly 900 comments, and over 2,000 agree and disagree reactions. Comments were coded using MAXQDA software to categorize comments based on keywords and phrases. See the following tables for the comment categories.

Note: The "Frequency" numbers do not add up to the total number of comments (861). This is due to overlap where more than one category may be mentioned in a single comment.



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Category	Subcategory	Frequency
Successes		59
More trails	More Trails (Unspecified)	135
	Connect Loops	95
	Beginner Trails	57
	Bike Park	39
	More Downhill	26
Anti-New Trails		20
Bike Only/Bike Specific Trails		3
More MTB Access		120
Bikes in Ski Area		29
Reroutes		20
Loop/Connection Appreciation		31
Maintenance		11
Anti-Maintenance	General Maintenance	169
	Fire Impacted CDO Trail	60
		24
		6
Adopt Trails	Milagrosa	49
	50 year	37
	Adopt Trails (Unspecified)	26
	Climbing Approaches	21
	1918	13
Sutherland Area	Baby Jesus	7
	Secret Trail	6
	Pusch Peak	4
	Rattlesnake Peak	1
		20
Signage	General Signage	67
	More/Better Signage	17
Trailhead & Parking	General Mention	95
	Improve/Bigger	12

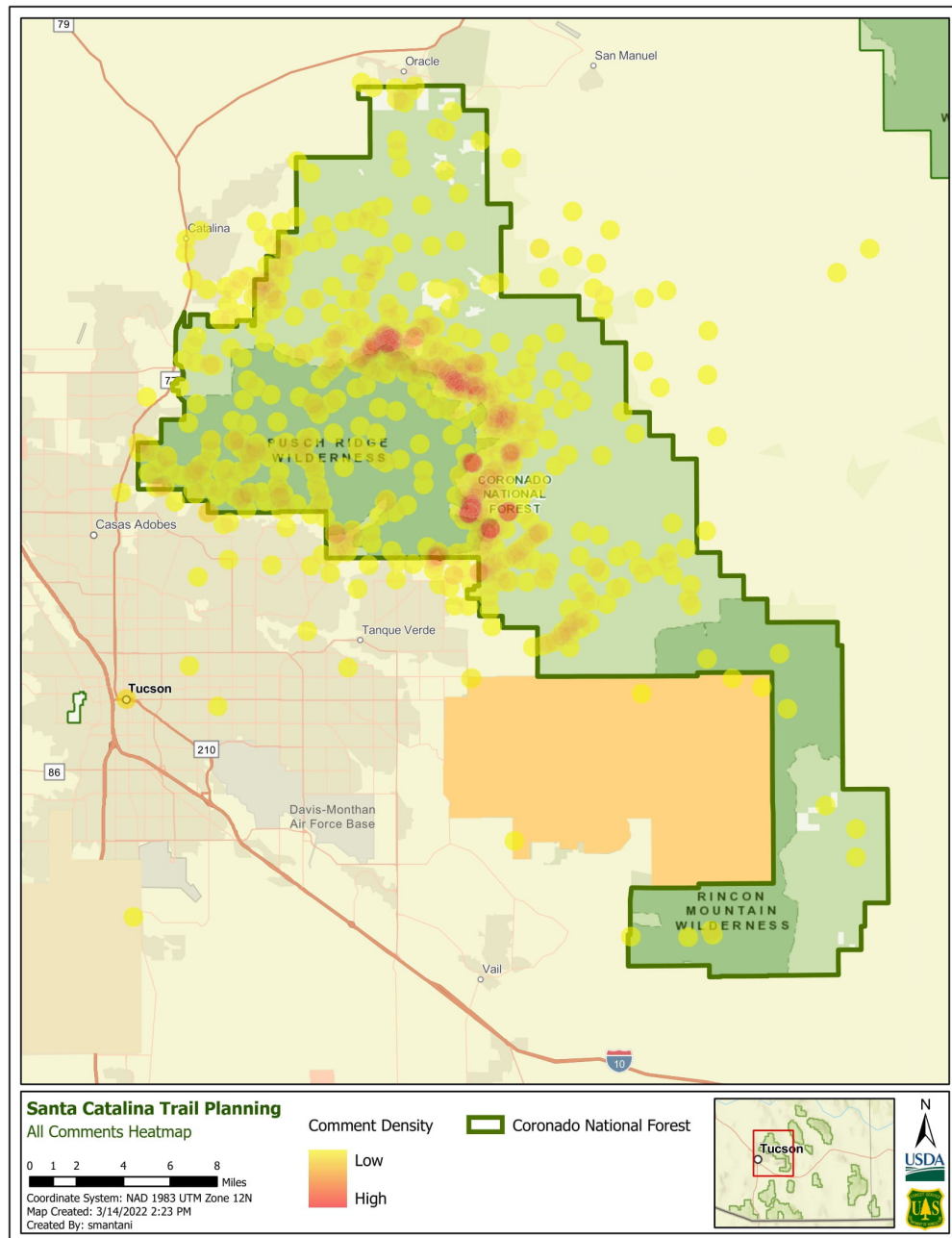
Category	Subcategory	Frequency
Concerns	Overuse/Crowding	41
	More Enforcement	36
	Private Property/ Area Access	34
	Highway Complaints	23
	Fees/Permits	15
	Water	13
	Human Waste/Trash	9
	Sheep Closure	7
	ADA	5
	Buffelgrass	3
Shooting	General	29
	Hunting	13
Wilderness (Mentioned)		73
Volunteer/Stewardship		61
Wildlife/Natural Resources		52
Education		33
Bathrooms		11
Summerhaven Shuttle		2
Sabino Canyon Crawler		2
User Conflict	General User Conflict	42
	Firearms/Safety	26
	Anti-Dog	34
	Pro-Dog	13
	Anti-Mountain Bike	18
	Anti-Motorized	9
	Anti-Horse	5
	Anti-E-bike	2
	Pro-E-bike	2
	Anti-music	2
	Anti-Drone	1



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Heat Maps

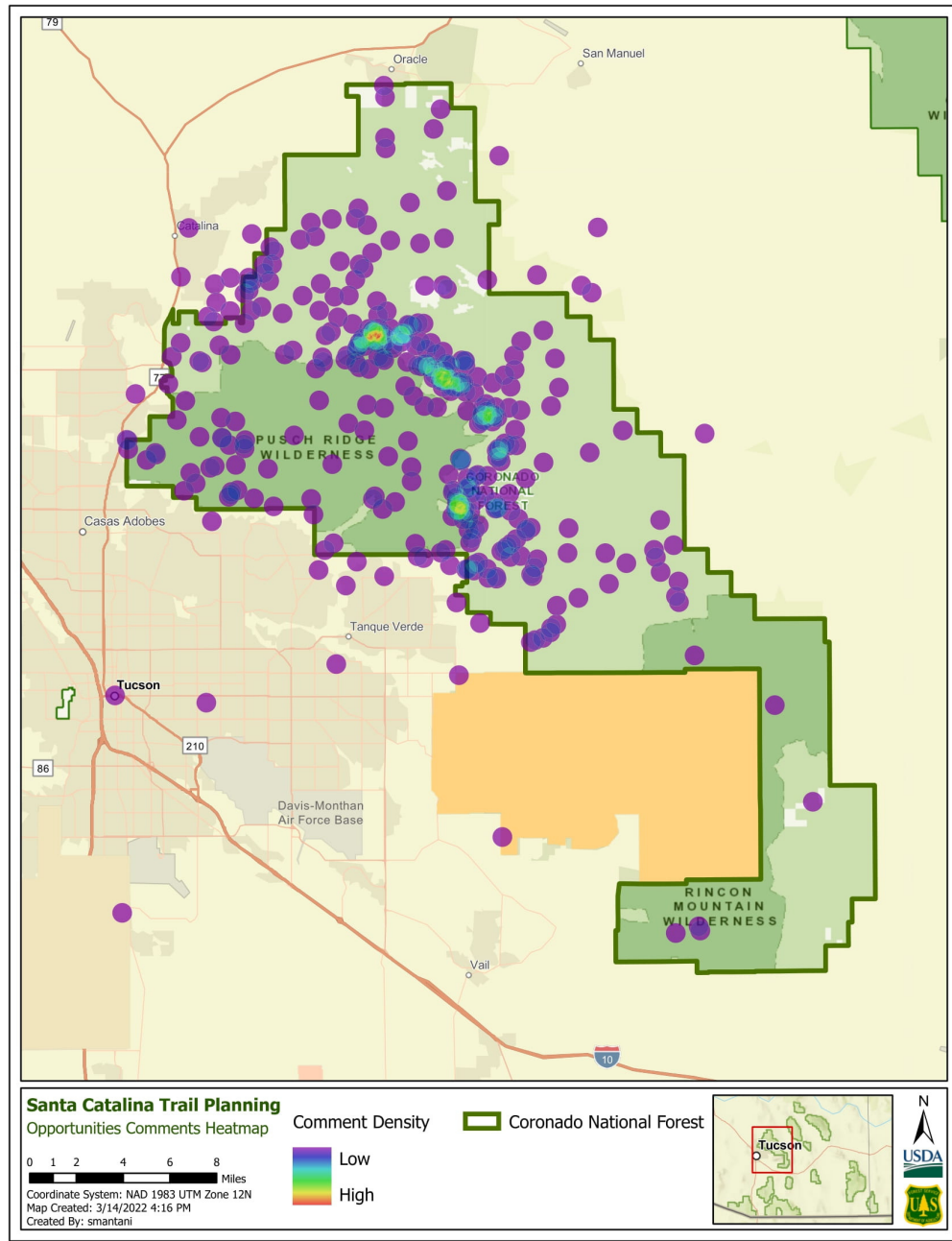
Heat maps are a way of visualizing concentrations of data points. Below you'll see the "All Comments" heat map showing high concentrations of comments in red, medium in orange, and low in yellow. On the next few pages you'll see the breakdown by comment category.



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Opportunities

There's no doubt these mountains will be important for years to come. Visitors suggested what opportunities there are to improve recreation while being good stewards of the land. They considered: trail re-alignments, new connections, improvements to parking/trail access, education programs, areas where cultural or natural resources could be protected or restored, and more.

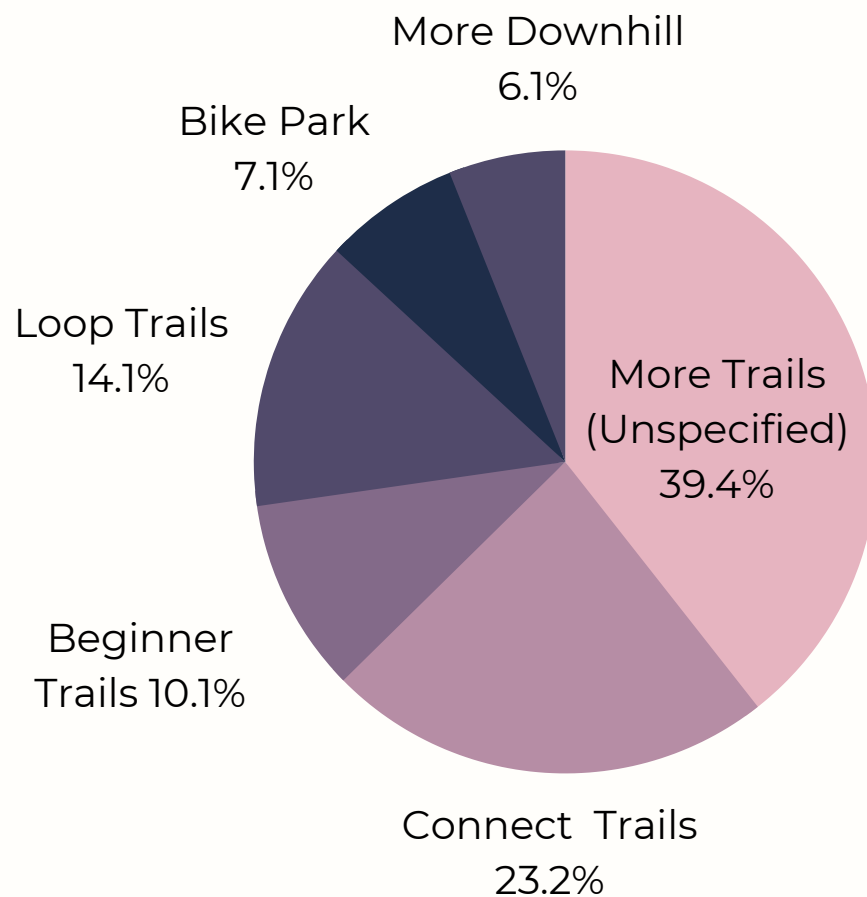


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More Trails

The top theme from nearly 900 comments was an overwhelming call for more trails in the Santa Catalina and Rincon Mountains. But more trails can mean different things for different users - this chart breaks down the division of what kinds of new trails visitors are interested in.

39.4% of commenters suggested the establishment of more trails, without further specification. Connector trails and loop trails followed, with more beginner trails, bike park, and downhill biking trails close behind.

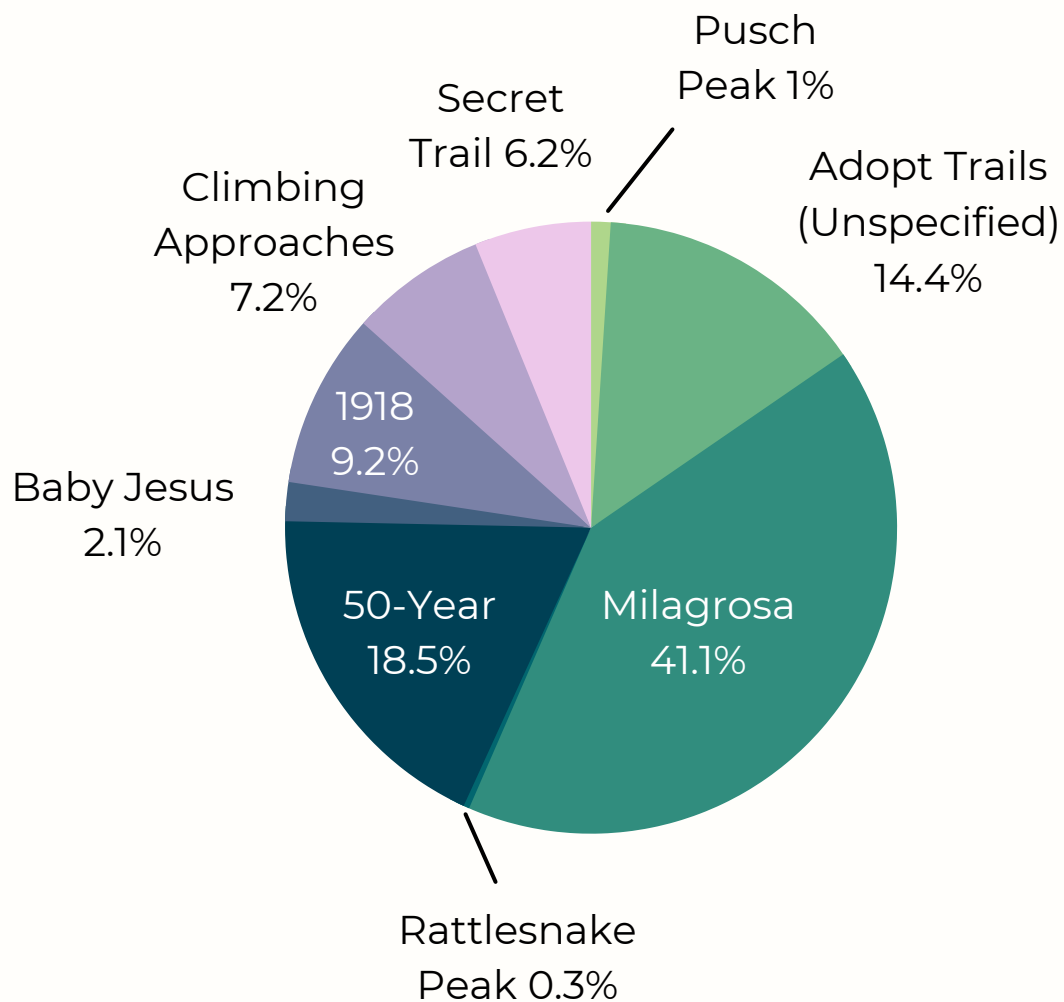


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Adopt Trails

Adopting trails was a close second in terms of top themes. Commenters identified well-loved trails that are not part of the National Forest Service (NFS) Trail System.

A call to adopt trails (in general) along with specific trails, means that the Forest Service would be able to log and maintain trail status with crews, volunteer groups, and contractors.



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Opportunities



"Milagrosa is pretty regularly used by climbers, cyclists, and hikers. I've always assumed it was an official trail. It would be nice to see this become an official trail and for the USFS to make sure it is sustainable."

-La Milagrosa Canyon

"A good bike skills park on Mt. Lemmon would put Tucson even more on the map for the global mountain bike community attracting a lot of tourism and potential professional transplants for the city."

-General Comment

"Hunters need better access to this area." -Buehman Canyon

"Mt. Bigelow is perfect for many more bike trails especially loops. Mountain biking is a year-round sport in Tucson, but riding in town during the summer is dangerous. Escaping the heat in the higher elevations of Mt. Lemmon is in high demand in the mountain biking community. Additional trails will also help spread out hikers and other trail users." -Mt. Bigelow



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Opportunities

"Cardiac gap was overgrown in October. It took a lot of extra time to get to the top of the ridge (pass over to Esperero canyon) because I had to hunt for the trail. I suspect it has gotten better with lack of rains, but a small section of trimming could do wonders to re-enable access to Bridal Veil, etc."

-Esperero Trail



"Create a trail that links Bug Springs to the top/saddle of Bellota AZT. This would make a great option for mountain bikers as it would cut out a long, challenging climb from the road to that saddle point."

-Bug Spring



"I love the mountain biking trails in this general area, and I am surprised to find out they aren't official trails! Would be amazing to make these official, and even expand the trail system to connect to the trails on top of the mountain."

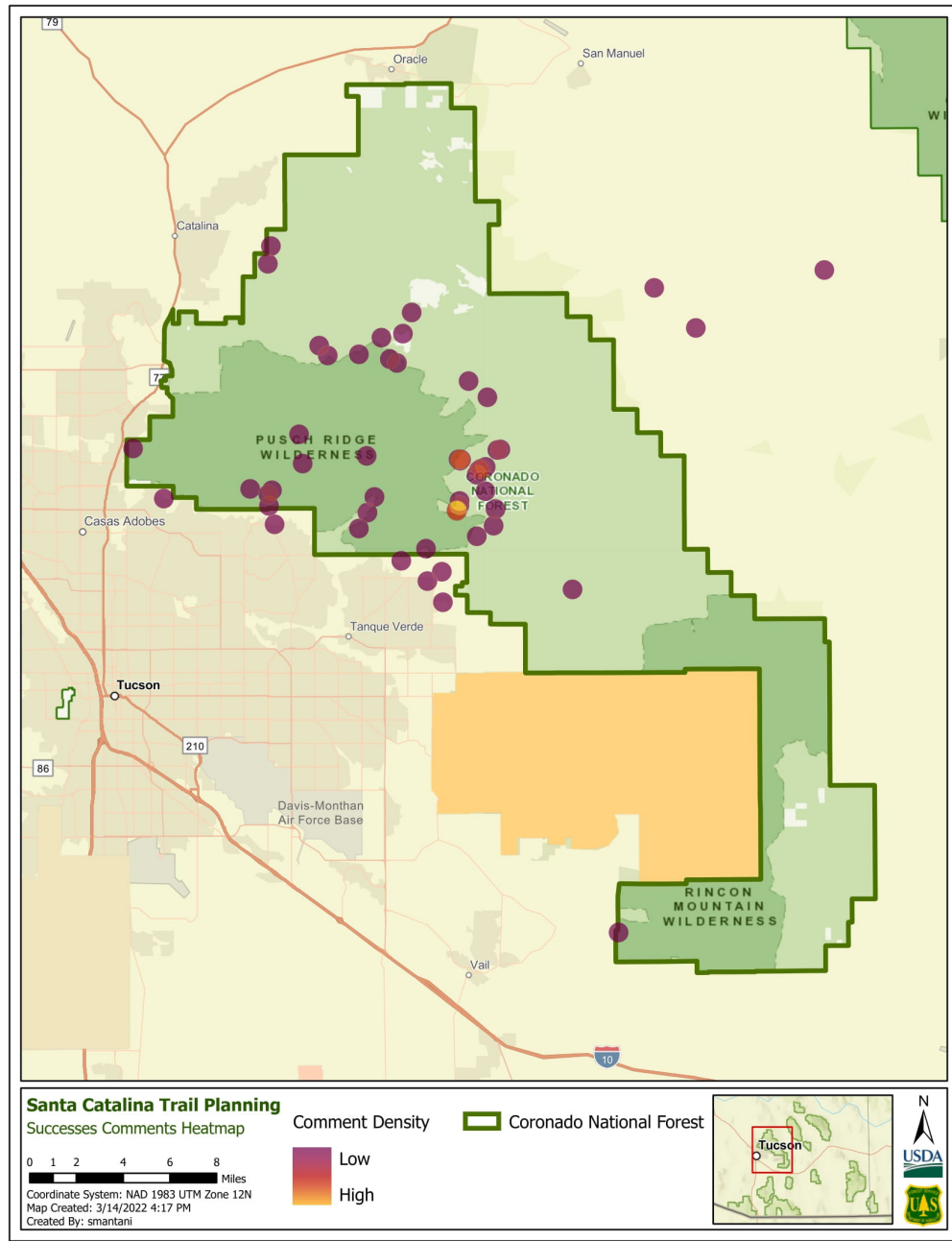
-Baby Jesus Ridge Area



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Successes

This area is used by hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. To maintain the area, partners, volunteers, and Forest Service staff are engaged in many projects and programs. Visitors shared their feedback on what their favorite trail is and why, particular projects that made a trail more sustainable or enjoyable, trails with good examples of shared use, and more.



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Successes

“The Marshall Gulch Trail and others connecting up to Marshall Saddle like Aspen and Wilderness of Rocks are some of the best trails around. More trails like this would be an excellent addition both up on the mountain and on the N & W sides of the Catalinas.” -Marshall Gulch Trail

“Having been involved with Back Country Horsemen at all levels, I heard reports of many conflicts between mountain bikers and horse riders... I was pleasantly surprised that is not the norm where I ride here, mostly in the Catalina area. Generally, bikers and equestrians are considerate of each other... [and] I can report the same with hikers. Those of us who use the trails are all glad to be there, and willing to share, with few exceptions. I am fulfilling my plan to ride almost daily and have quality trails on which to do so.” -Sutherland Area



“Both my son and I ride single track here in Tucson. We both feel that the motorized trail system is a great way to enjoy our beautiful outdoor environment safely and legally. We pay for our OHV plates yearly and would like to see some expansion of motorized trails in Tucson.”
-General Comment

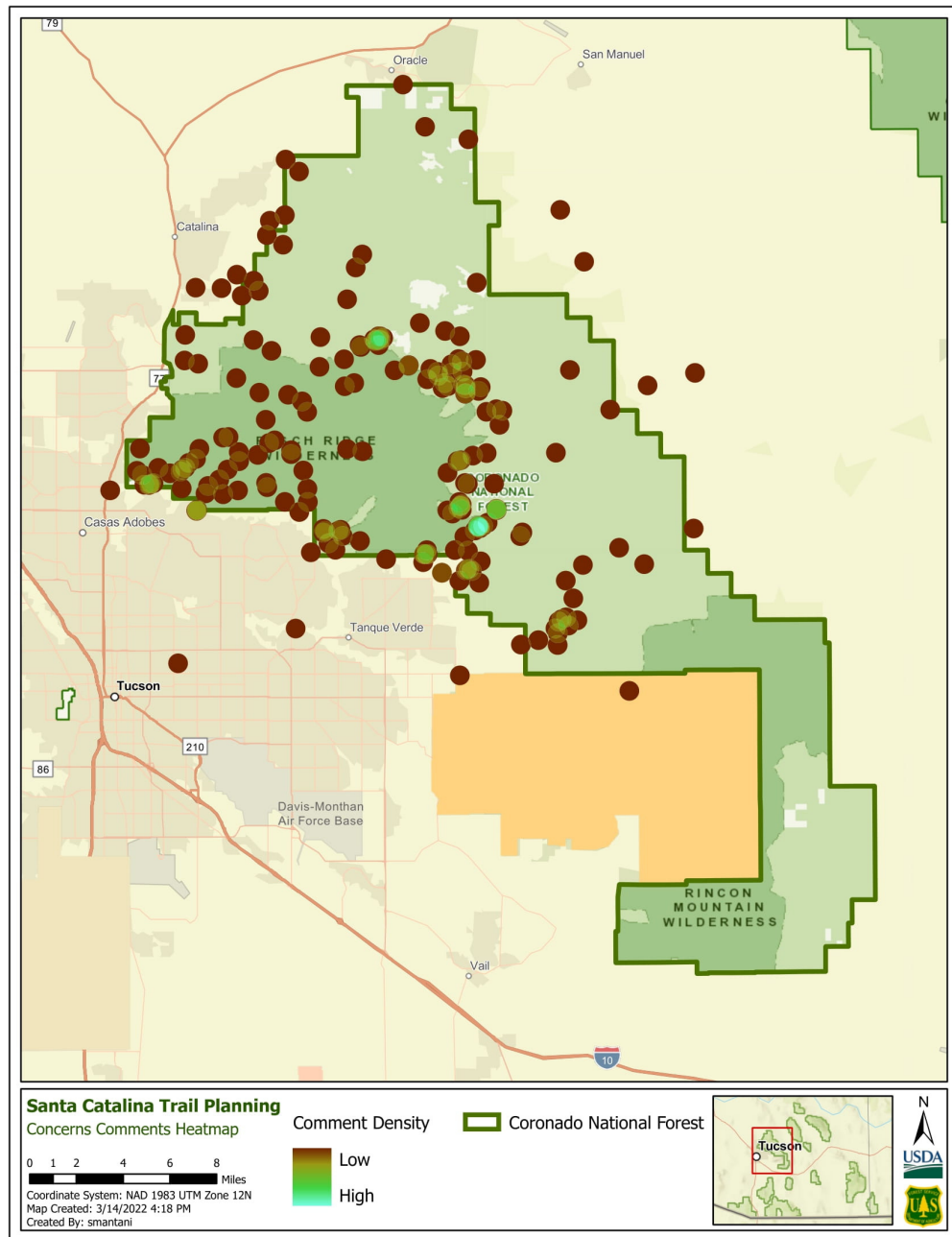
“Thanks to all for the work that has been done to reopen the trails this fall/winter given the damage from the Bighorn fire and subsequent monsoons. Improvements on the lower areas of Ventana Canyon, Pontatoc and Finger Rock are great especially for less experienced hikers wanting to use those parts of these trails.”
-Ventana and Pontatoc/Finger Rock Trails



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Concerns

Competing values in a confined area or on a trail can cause conflict. Visitors considered what concerns they had Catalina trails and share feedback about trail condition issues, impacts to natural and cultural resources, where they've experienced user conflict, or unauthorized trails that are not sustainable.

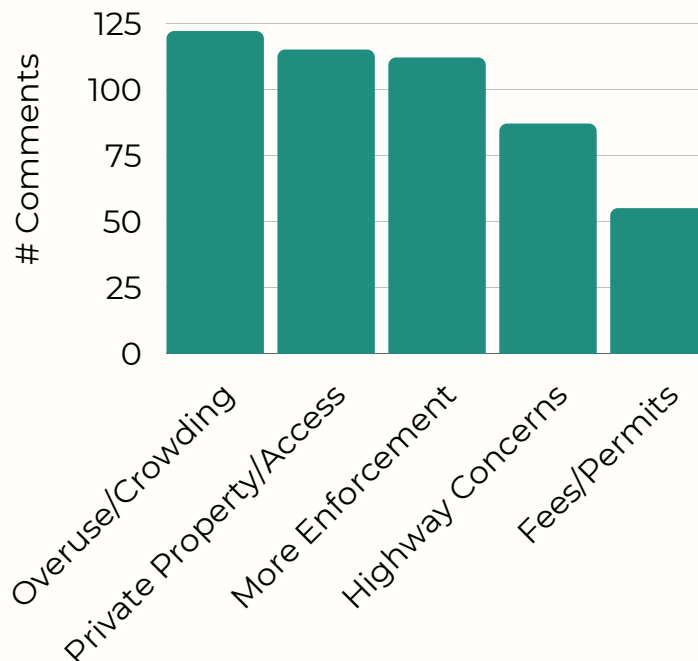


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Concerns

"Aspen Draw needs some serious relief. No one group should have to lose access to it but it is just becoming more and more overcrowded. The trail really needs more access so that all users can enjoy the area in their own way, without conflict. The amount of people heading up the mountain [is increasing]. The very limited infrastructure of trails up top is going to create disaster." -Aspen Draw Trail

Top Concerns



With overuse and crowding as the community's foremost concern, the need for a sustainable trail plan is critical. Tucson is home to 1 million people, with high visitation numbers every year. As recreation increases in the Santa Catalinas, managing a growing recreation population is at the top of the Coronado National Forest's priorities.



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Concerns

"Narrow and inconsistent shoulder width for cyclists [on the Catalina Highway] combined with poor driving is dangerous for cyclists. I strongly suggest increasing shoulder width on the uphill side for biker safety."
-Catalina Highway

"Many rock climbing areas have established approaches on unofficial trails that have existed for decades. The climbing community takes considerable effort to minimize social trails while accessing the cliffs we use. Climbers and canyoneers will continue to access these cliffs regardless of what rules are in place so I think the trail plan should contain language to encourage staying on established trails (unofficial or official) rather than any sort of blanket prohibition of off trail use."
-Mount Lemmon Trail/General Comment

"The Forest should analyze which trails in the current sheep management area might pose the LEAST risk to bighorn sheep and designate some areas available to dogs. This should be a pilot project to document whether or not sheep are impacted with the results of the study informing future decisions on sheep management and dog presence." -Pusch Ridge Wilderness

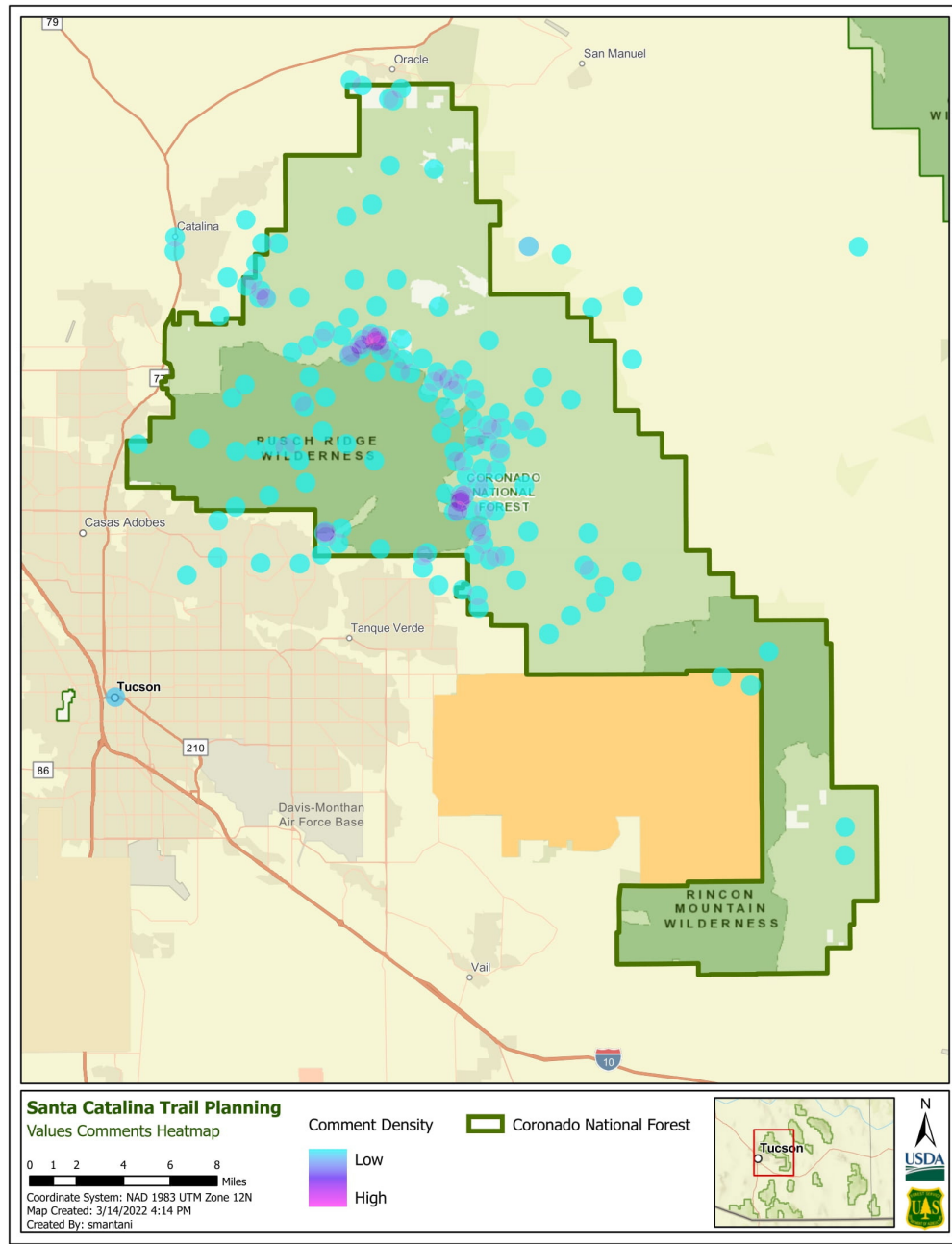
"There should be a clearly marked parking area, with a bit more room, at the entrance to the La Milagrosa / Agua Caliente canyons trail complex. It is important to preserve public access to these awesome canyons."
-La Milagrosa & Agua Caliente Canyons



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Values

The Santa Catalinas and Rincons mean quite a lot to people. Visitors shared what they value about these mountains, trail experiences, connections to a place, important cultural and historical sites, natural resources, and sights or sounds they care about.



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Values

"Trails in this area are very important to the community of Oracle and for hunter access into this area." -Oracle Ridge

"This area - the Reef of Rock - has historically been and continues to be a highly valuable backcountry resource for the Southern Arizona rock climbing community. Hikers also enjoy the adventure out to this spectacular ridge of rocks, and there are canyon routes descending the ridge that meet with the CDO trail." -Reef Rock Area



"Given the growth and popularity of mountain biking, this area could use some purpose built MTB trails that utilize the lifts. This could prevent conflicts with hikers and utilize already existing, impacted areas." -Aspen Draw Trail

- Reply: "mountain biking is a huge draw for Tucson and we should embrace it"
- Reply "If mountain bike trails are added, there should be beginner as well as expert trails."

"One of the things I enjoy most in this area is dirt biking in the desert. I have introduced this new hobby to my family and they very much enjoy it as well... I have been able to get my kids to put down their iPads and phones and enjoy an activity that is difficult, requires practice, and gives them something to be proud of as they excel at it. Single track riding is much safer for them due to the slower speeds... With the popularity of UTVs increasing, it would be great to preserve a trail system for single track dirt bike use. My family would very much appreciate a dedicated trail system closer to the North Tucson area." -Oracle Hill Area



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In-Person Outreach

In addition to digital outreach efforts through sharing the online Story Map, emails to partners, news releases and social media posts, there were significant off-line endeavors to reach the public as well. Mirroring the digital Story Map, large maps of the trail plan area were printed for in-person tabling at popular trailheads. Here, community members actively using the trail system were able to document their ideas for improving the Catalinas. Signs with the Story Map website and QR code were posted in 15 locations along the foothills area and Catalina Highway trails for visitors to scan and provide input at home.

A public forum was held on January 26, 2022 at 4:30pm for partners and members of the public to learn about the trail plan, voice suggestions, and ask questions in a live, virtual meeting.

Date	Location
Wed 1/12	Molino Basin & Windy Point
Mon 1/24	Finger Rock & Ventana trailheads
Tue 1/25	Windy Point
Sat 1/29	Molino Basin & Hirabayashi trailhead

Dates and locations of in-person outreach and comment collection



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Comments Collected from In-Person Outreach

Quotes collected on paper, then added to the digital Story Map.

Category and location collected noted.

"I come to enjoy the diverse hiking. I make sure to come midweek though, to avoid bikes. I think we can successfully share trails."

-Value, Molino Basin

"Finger Rock Trail is extremely washed out and it's hard to find the trail. But, I'm impressed with the work already done there - the stone steps and brushing."

-Concern, Finger Rock

"I love Maiden Pools - it's a less intensive hike to get to water, and you feel really far from the city." -Success, Ventana Trail



"The Forest Service could be more welcoming to climbers. Improving access trails and the base of crags to reduce erosion would go a long way."

-Opportunity, Windy Point

"Potable water should be available at Hirabayashi for cyclists & mountain bikers."

-Concern, Hirabayashi



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Conclusion

Phase 1 of the Santa Catalina Trail Plan is complete. Through the collection of important input from partner agencies, local recreation organizations, and community members, Coronado National Forest staff now have the difficult task of narrowing down a list of priorities for the Catalinas.

There are clear top priorities voiced by the community, as well as necessary steps the Forest must take to address and achieve sustainable management of these mountain ranges. The development of the Santa Catalina Trail Plan is meant to be collaborative, with all user groups in mind. The Forest expresses a heartfelt *thank you* to every individual who was involved, every leader that rallied their communities, and every agency that took time to write a letter with important contributions.

Next Steps

Following the sensing phase, focus group collaborations are now in the planning process. Different user groups and stakeholders will have the chance to hold a dialogue about their specific uses in the forest, how they can get involved beyond sensing, and what the community's capacity is for implementing projects.



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Appendix A - Trail Plan Context

The Need for a Trail Plan

The Forest Service has identified a recreational trails plan as a top priority for future trail planning and stewardship for the Santa Catalina Mountains due to:

- Increasing visitation and the growing role outdoor recreation plays in our community and economy
- Popularity of trails, which are used by 75% of Coronado visitors
- Changing technology and user preferences
- Changes brought on by the Bighorn Fire of 2020, such as erosion
- Existence of unauthorized, user-created trails

Goals for the Trail Plan

The main goals for the development of the Santa Catalina Trail Plan will be to:

- Ensure the creation of a strategic plan that is ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable
- Ensure a trail plan that is built through a transparent collaborative process
- Create a system of trails and trail access points that will meet the needs of current and future users
- Add sustainable trails to the National Forest Trail System
- Obliterate trails that are damaging to the natural resources and can't be maintained to be sustainable
- Reroute sections of trail to locations that are non-damaging for some trails
- Effectively manage trails to reduce user conflicts
- Promote partnerships for maintaining trails

Scope

This effort will produce a conceptual trail plan for the Santa Catalina Ranger District not already covered by an existing plan. Areas with current plans include Catalina State Park, Sabino Canyon Recreation Area, and Redington Pass.



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Appendix B - Media Coverage

Tucson.com

https://tucson.com/news/local/trails-reopen-but-hazards-remain-after-bighorn-fire-north-of-tucson/article_ca886d58-61d8-11ec-9745-7fd0904dc566.html

ALERT FEATURED TOP STORY

Trails reopen but hazards remain after Bighorn Fire north of Tucson

Cindy Coffey Chojnacky Special to the Arizona Daily Star
Dec 22, 2021



Andrew Claus cleans up debris from the Bighorn Fire along the Butterfly Trail in the Santa Catalina Mountains during the Arizona Trail Association's cleanup day Saturday.

Ana Beltran, Arizona Daily Star

Cindy Coffey Chojnacky Special to the Arizona Daily Star

About 20 miles of trails — closed for more than a year due to damage from the 2020 Bighorn Fire — have reopened in the Santa Catalina mountains north of Tucson.

After Bighorn burned almost 120,000 acres between June 5 and July 23, 2020, the Forest Service closed the burn scar area to the public including almost 207 miles of trails. A combination of nonprofit group work, grant-funded conservation corps, and Forest Service staff work has steadily opened more trail sections over the past year.

The newest “closure order” issued Dec. 15 by the Coronado National Forest, actually opens most of the popular Arizona Trail Wilderness Bypass mountain bike trail system including Butterfly and the rest of Green Mountain Trail. Of that system, only Crystal Springs Trail remains closed; although volunteers and crews have been working on this trail, which should be usable soon. Brush Corral Trail, connecting Green Mountain Trail to the Redington Pass area, also is open.

Also newly reopened are more miles on Pima Canyon, Finger Rock and Esperero trails in the Pusch Ridge Wilderness. One could now hike Ventana Canyon all the way to the “window” and continue to the top of Esperero Canyon.

Of the 225 miles of designated trail on the Santa Catalina Ranger District, more than 50 miles remain closed. For specific trails still closed see “Santa Catalina Ranger District Mt. Lemmon Bighorn Fire Closure” on the Coronado National Forest website (at tinyurl.com/coronadonotices).

Major ridge trails such as Samaniego, Sutherland and Canada del Oro remain closed although Red Ridge Trail, popular with mountain bikes, is open thanks to work from Tucson Off-Road Cycling Association (TORCA). TORCA has also done and obtained grant funding for work to reopen Green Mountain Trail including heavy rock reconstruction work to stabilize drainage crossings.

Priorities for reopening include Mount Lemmon and Esperero trails, said Adam Milnor, recreation staff officer for the Coronado National Forest. Other trails such as Romero Canyon above Romero Pools, which remains closed, would require totally

rebuilding miles of washed-out gullies. It costs about \$10,000 per mile to reestablish higher elevation trails, Milnor added.

The Forest Service was initially concerned about burned dead trees that might fall (“hazard trees”) and trails that could severely wash out in steep rocky terrain where stabilizing vegetation had burned off. Many hazard trees were removed, and a dry 2020 winter and spring did not produce flooding. However, this summer’s monsoon rains resulted in washouts and trail damage.

“The main hazard now is eroded hill slopes with little or no tread” such as side slope trails on upper Pima and Finger Rock canyons, said Charles “CJ” Woodward, Catalina district ranger. “These are highly erosive soils, and we have to completely rebuild the trails.”



The Green Mountain Trail in the Santa Catalina Mountains has been getting extra maintenance since the Bighorn Fire in 2020.

Ana Beltran, Arizona Daily Star

Volunteer cleanup events work well on accessible trails like the first miles of canyon trails or trails right off Mount Lemmon Highway. Trails far out in backcountry like Cathedral Rock and Samaniego are a logistical challenge, according to Milnor. The area has little water, and it is difficult to support a crew on a ridge trail for several days.

Last March, major sections of Arizona Trail through the Catalinas were reopened: 18.5-mile Passage 11a, including West Fork Sabino and Wilderness of Rocks Trail, and 15.5-mile Passage 12 Oracle Ridge Trail. Before reopening, Arizona Trail Association volunteers documented all hazardous trees in the burn; an Arizona Conservation Corps (AZCC) crew hired by the Forest Service and certified sawyer volunteers cleared hazards so the trail could reopen for the 2021 thru-hiking season. Several volunteer events also helped restore parts of these trails.

Community affair

Trail rework has been a public-government effort. The Forest Service has invested about \$100,000 to fund AZCC crews on Ventana, Butterfly, Green Mountain, Wilderness of Rocks and West Fork Sabino trails. TORCA secured grants for two more weeks of AZCC work on Green Mountain. Another AZCC crew worked on Crystal Springs.

National Forest Foundation's Southern Arizona Forest Fund raised about \$40,000 for Bighorn Fire restoration. This funded post-fire restoration work as part of an ongoing Earth Camp program with Tucson high school students, Arizona Sonora Desert Museum and AZCC. Students camped in Molino Basin and pulled highly flammable exotic buffelgrass, replanted native species, and did trail work in the burn area. AZCC crew members, all young adults, enjoyed being mentors to the high school students, said Rebecca Davidson, NFF Southwest Region director.

She said the remainder funded a contractor to document major trail damage and organize volunteer projects on Marshall Gulch, Brush Corrals and Romero Canyon trails.

Arizona Trail Association has hosted multiple volunteer events to clear downfall, reestablish trail tread, and improve drainage on Butterfly, Wilderness of Rocks, Oracle Ridge, West Fork of Sabino and Crystal Springs trails, Milnor said. Climbing Association of Southern Arizona has hosted volunteer events on Finger Rock and Brush Corral trails.

Looking ahead

Now Forest Service officials seek public help planning the future trail system, Milnor said.

“Our trail system is a major community asset,” Milnor said. “A lot of people live in Southern Arizona for access to the mountains.”

Trail use is different than the past with more trail runners and mountain bikers.

“We have planned developed sites, interpretive sites and scenic byways on the (Mount Lemmon) highway, but we’ve had no real planning for the trail system,” Milnor added.

The trail comment process is informal, not under National Environmental Policy Act processes required for work with environmental impact.



The loss of ground cover in the Bighorn Fire allowed runoff to flow unimpeded, creating holes like this one in the Green Mountain Trail.

Brannon Mamula, TORCA



“After we get the comments we will have a series of meetings, and perhaps focus groups with partners. We will let the feedback inform the rest of the process,” Milnor said.

Kimberly McElroy cleans up burned debris at the Butterfly Trailhead in the Santa Catalina Mountains.

Ana Beltran, Arizona Daily Star

The next step will be to create a conceptual map of a future desired trail system by midsummer.

Milnor foresees rerouting some trails, making new connections, improving trailheads and parking in some areas, and even choosing not to maintain certain trails.

“We will be referring to these comments for years to come,” Milnor said. He is the main contact for the project, and comments can be sent to him by email (adam.milnor@usda.gov).



This photo of the Green Mountain Trail was taken not long after the Bighorn Fire in 2020.

Brannon Mamula, TORCA

Of comments submitted so far, some offer extremely specific knowledge and advice for certain areas, potential connections and modifications to reduce conflicts. Others are quite general.

Mountain bikers so far have offered the most comments, requesting more moderate and connector trails, downhill alternatives to reduce user conflicts, and nonmotorized trails utilizing or supplementing existing jeep road areas such as Redington Pass and Oracle Ridge.

Dog walkers would like more lower trails open for leashed dogs while others maintain no dogs should be allowed in the Catalinas. Commenters also called for a bigger Forest Service field staff and mention concerns beyond the scope of the trails system: garbage, unauthorized shooting, drones and rude hikers with poor trail etiquette.

“Reopen all the trails,” said one commenter. “A year of trail closure is unacceptable.”

Ranger Woodward said many recreationists now better understand the closures and even warn others of unsafe areas. His message to the public: “Be patient with us as we work to reopen the trails and try to balance all kinds of recreation users and interests.”



Volunteers work on the Green Mountain Trail in the Santa Catalina Mountains.

Brannon Mamula, TORCA

Appendix C - Media Coverage

News 4 Tucson

https://www.kvoa.com/news/local/coronado-national-forest-wants-your-input-on-future-of-santa-catalina-mt-lemmon-recreational-trails/article_52e34f52-53d2-11ec-8344-8fd705c1dca2.html

Coronado National Forest wants your input on future of Santa Catalina, Mt. Lemmon recreational trails

News 4 Tucson
Dec 2, 2021



Mt. Lemmon

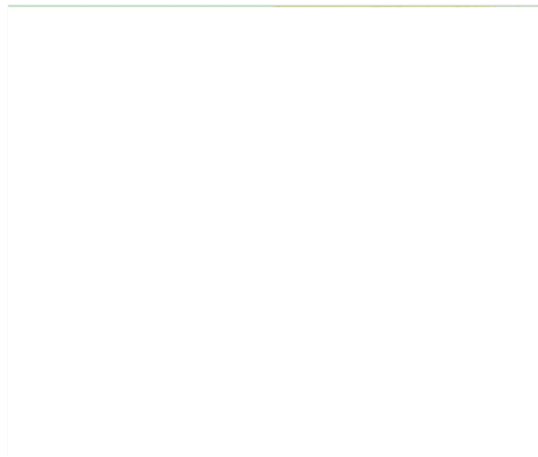
TUCSON (KVOA) - The Coronado National Forest wants to hear from you.

https://www.kvoa.com/news/local/coronado-national-forest-wants-your-input-on-future-of-santa-catalina-mt-lemmon-recreational-trails/article_52e34f52... 1/2

The public is being asked for input on the future of recreational trails in the Santa Catalina Ranger District including Mount Lemmon, along the Sky Islands Scenic Byway, and in the Pusch Ridge Wilderness.

An **interactive public comment map** was launched Thursday and will be available until Jan. 31.

According to the Forest, the comments received will be used to shape a holistic trail plan for over 200 miles of National Forest System recreational trails and dozens of trailheads across 225,000 acres of National Forest Systems land.



Popular destinations such as the Sky Islands Scenic Byway (also known as the Catalina Highway), Mount Lemmon, Molino Basin, Pima Canyon, and Ventana Canyon are included in the planning effort.

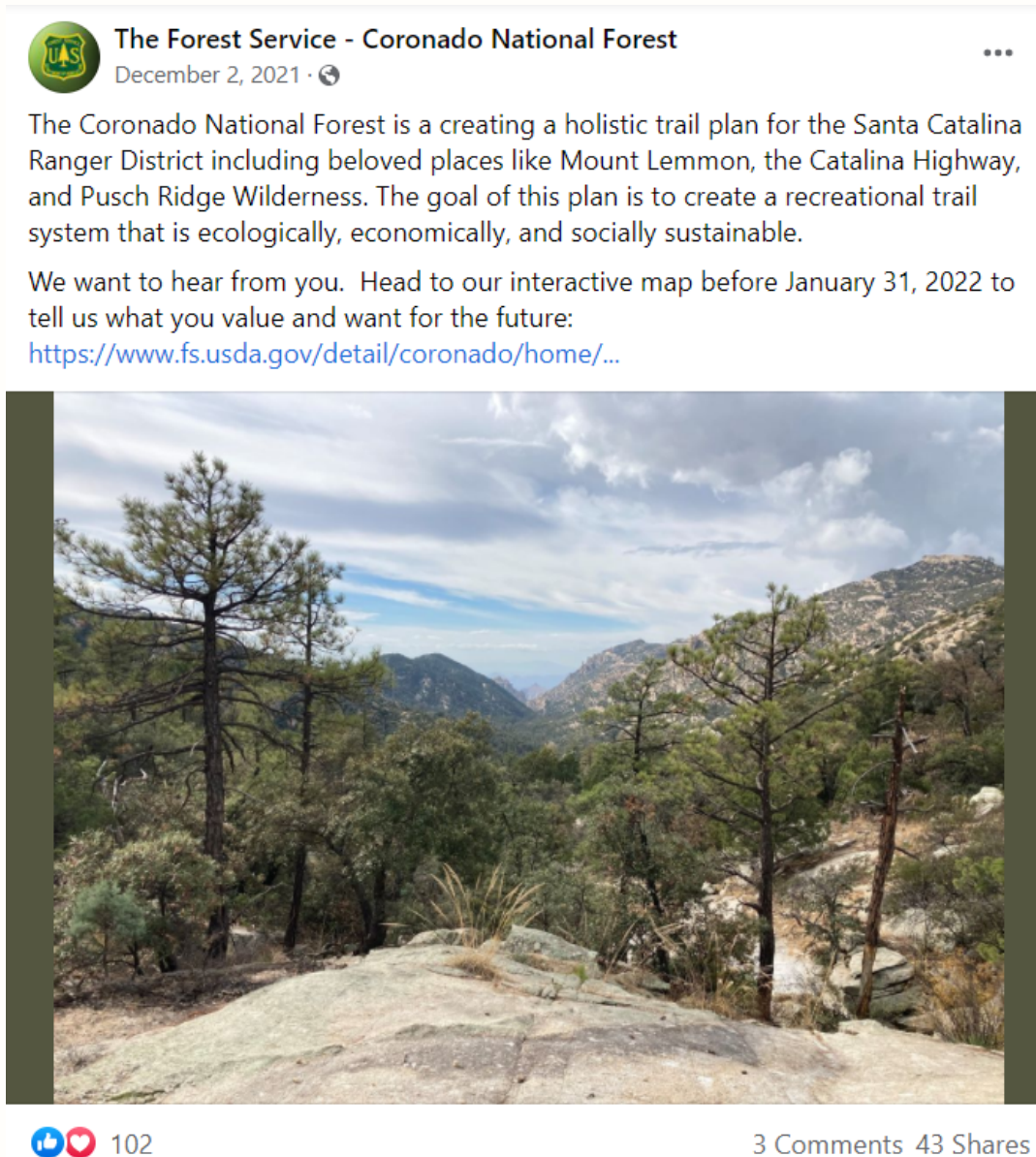
The goal of the plan is to balance the ecological, social, and economic factors of recreation in the District.

Tags

[Mount Lemmon](#)[Trail](#)[Byway](#)[National Forest](#)[Highway](#)[Geology](#)[Coronado](#)[Comment](#)[Map](#)

Appendix D - Social Media Outreach

Facebook



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Social Media Outreach

Facebook



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Social Media Outreach

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The Forest Service - Coronado National Forest

December 14, 2021 · 🌐

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The Santa Catalina Mountains are the backdrop to the city of Tucson, critical habitat for our Sky Island flora and fauna, and the ancestral homeland of several indigenous communities. How should the Coronado National Forest steward the trail system in this important place and respond to the Bighorn Fire? Share your views, ideas and concerns over at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/coronado/home/...>



👍👤 10

9 Shares



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